

# KANSAS

## ARTS COMMISSION

### KAC names 2008 Governor's Arts Awards recipients, singer Marilyn Maye honored with distinguished arts award

The Kansas Arts Commission is pleased to announce this winners of the 2008 Governor's Arts Awards: the City of Wichita, Department of Arts and Cultural Services (arts community); The Elaris Duo of Topeka (artist); Dick and Beverly Hess, McPherson (arts patrons); Jay and Barbara Nelson, Manhattan (arts advocates); John Tibbets, Lenexa (arts in education); and Van Go Mobile Arts, Lawrence (arts organization).

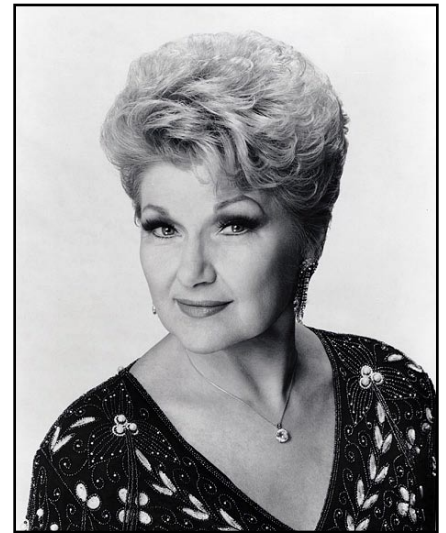
In addition, jazz and nightclub singer Marilyn Maye, a Kansas City native, will be honored with this year's Distinguished Arts Award. Known as "the singer's singer" and for a record of 76 appearances on "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson," Maye's career is a litany of honors, awards, and landmark achievements.

The Governor's Arts Awards are honors given annually to dis-

tinguished Kansas artists, patrons and educators, and has been given annually since 1974 by the governor and the Kansas Arts Commission. An expert panel, consisting of members of the Kansas Arts Commission, a representative from the Governor's office and arts professionals, selected the winners from 37 nominees.

"The Kansas Arts Commission is pleased to recognize these winners for their excellence in support of the arts in Kansas," said Kansas Arts Commission Chair Anita Wolgast. "Through their efforts, these individuals, organizations and community are dedicated to providing artistic and cultural enrichment to Kansans throughout the state."

The dinner and awards ceremony will be from 6:00 to 9:30 pm on June 26, 2008, at the Memorial Union Washburn Room at Washburn University. Governor Kathleen Sebelius has been



*Marilyn Maye*

invited to attend the ceremony to present the awards.

For more information, or to be sure you receive an invitation to the statewide arts event of the year, please contact the Kansas Arts Commission at 785/296-3335 or [kac@arts.ks.gov](mailto:kac@arts.ks.gov).

### Kansas Citizens for the Arts present Arts Day at the Capitol

On Friday, March 7, 2008, arts lovers will convene at the state Capitol to advocate for support for the arts in Kansas. Governor Kathleen Sebelius and the Democratic and Republican leadership have been invited to speak.

Activities commence at 7:00 am on the second floor Capitol Rotunda

with a continental breakfast for legislators. At 9:00 am, state political leadership will speak on the importance of the arts to their communities, and the annual business meeting of Kansas Citizens for the Arts will be held. Then arts advocates will visit legislative offices to speak about the value of the arts in Kansas. The day culminates

with a performance by the Kanopolis Middle School 6th Grade Choir from 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

For more information about Kansas Citizens for the Arts or participating in Arts Day at the Capitol, contact Robert Lee at [bandhaven@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bandhaven@sbcglobal.net) or 620/669-1301.

## The *Mission* of the Kansas Arts Commission

*To provide opportunities for the people of Kansas to experience, celebrate and value the arts throughout their lives.*

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## Letter from the Executive Director

Greetings!

An expanded horizon for the Kansas Arts Commission has been laid forth in our new strategic plan. Filled with exciting challenges and opportunities, the plan is our guide in seeking the best possible ways to serve our state through the arts. And through the over \$1.5 million that we have distributed in grant funds and the almost twenty workshops we are offering during this fiscal year, we at the KAC are proud of what we're accomplishing.

In this issue of our newsletter, we are celebrating the contributions of many Kansans, especially those who have won our prestigious Governor's Arts Awards. While we are profiling the City of Wichita, the winner of our first Arts Community Award, we are thrilled with the other recipients of this award, all of whom will be honored at a dinner and awards ceremony on June 26.

And we are most proud of the artists who live in our state – especially those who recently won the Kansas Arts Commission's Artist Fellowships and Awards. They will be celebrated at a special reception in Topeka on March 10 to which their elected representatives are invited.

I hope all of you reading this are taking note of the importance of telling your elected officials about the value of the arts. Please participate in Arts Day at the Capitol on March 7 – the one day a year that arts supporters and advocates gather to speak to their legislators about the value of the arts in their communities and schools.

And don't forget the deadlines for our grant programs. The Kansas Arts Commission's grant program is the best way that we know to help you reach your goals. And be in touch – our wonderful staff, which is now complete, is here to assist you.

With warm wishes,

Llewellyn Crain  
Executive Director



*Llewellyn Crain*

Fiscal Year 2009 Grant Guidelines are now online!

Go to <http://arts.ks.gov/grants/index.shtml>  
for more information or call KAC at 785/296-3335.

## Poetry Out Loud brings poetry to life for students

The National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation and the Kansas Arts Commission, in cooperation with the Kansas Association of Teachers of English, present the Kansas Poetry Out Loud State Final Competition 7:00 pm, March 7, at the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka (515 SE Monroe St.).

"The program promotes literacy, critical thinking, and confidence," said Israel Wasserstein, state coordinator of Poetry Out Loud. "Students learn that great writing is not something that has to be removed from their lives, but is rather something they can learn, live with, take ownership of, and communicate to others.

"Poetry Out Loud makes poetry, literature and education become real to students, and that is why I'm so thrilled to be a part of the Poetry Out Loud program," he said.



The winners from six regional competitions advance to the state finals in Topeka. The state champion receives \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to compete in the Poetry Out Loud National Finals in Washington, D.C. In addition, the state champion's school receives a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. The runner-up receives a cash donation to his or her school library.

For more information, e-mail Israel Wasserstein at [israel.wasserstein@washburn.edu](mailto:israel.wasserstein@washburn.edu) or call 785/296-3335.

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## Arts Organizations Making a Difference in their Communities: The City of Wichita, Department of Arts and Cultural Services

Working with private citizens and business community, the City of Wichita has nurtured a culture of active support for the arts to create a vibrant and enriched arts community. As a result, the City of Wichita, Department of Arts and Cultural Services, will be awarded the 2008 Governor's Arts Award for Arts Community.

"We've worked hard to support the assets we have and meet the vision the city's forefathers put in place to help make Wichita a thriving community," said John D'Angelo, director of the arts and cultural division for the City of Wichita.

"Our efforts are a success not just for the city, but regionally and state-wide," said D'Angelo. "For most com-

munities, the arts bring people to your city and attracts young people to work and live there."

According to the 2007 Arts & Economic Prosperity Study which look at the economic impact of non-profit arts and culture organizations and their audiences in Wichita and Sedgwick County, the arts have a

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*Keeper of the Plains/River Corridor Project, Wichita*

## Arts Organizations Making a Difference

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significant economic development effect for Wichita, reporting a 21.5 million dollar economic impact and 4.7 million dollars in

revenue for the city.

“There is definitely a higher esthetic standard in the city and people who come back see a difference,” said D’Angelo. “The neighborhoods and communities have really embraced the enhancements and take pride in newly established art structures and improvement projects.

“While there is going to be disagreement in opinions of what art is among residents, the dialogue is healthy and most of the citizens support the investments, politically and administratively,” he said.

For communities that want to foster arts initiatives in their cities, D’Angelo offers a few suggestions.

“Encourage everyone to work together to identify what those arts opportunities are in their community,” he said. “Look past elite arts and look toward informal arts to find cultural icons of a community to build on.”

### Spring into action with a KAC workshop!

KAC is offering free spring workshops to arts and nonprofit organization staff, volunteers and board members on “Communications Strategies for Arts Organizations” and “Website Development on a Dime.”

Learn more at...

<http://arts.ks.gov/workshops/index.shtml>

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